

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 01035 231743Z

60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

EB-11 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /093 W

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R 231651Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2885

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1035

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AU, IT

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN-ITALIAN RELATIONS

REF: VIENNA 223

1. RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN OFFICE SOURCE HAS INFORMED US THAT VERBAL AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED TO POSTPONE FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR COMPLETION OF CALENDAR SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 20 WHICH WAS TO HAVE MARKED END OF ALTO ADIGE (SOUTH TYROL) ISSUE. ACCORDING SOURCE, VIENNA ACCEPTED WITH GOOD GRACE NEED FOR DELAY DESPITE FACT THAT ITALIANS RATHER THAN AUSTRIANS ARE MAINLY RESPONSIBLE. ANNOUNCEMENT ON POSTPONEMENT LIKELY TO BE ISSUED BY BOTH GOVERNMENTS TOWARD END OF JANUARY.

2. SOURCE SAID THAT MAIN OBSTACLES TO COMPLETION OF CALENDAR WERE: A) ITALIAN FAILURE TO ARRANGE FOR ADDITIONAL SENATOR FOR BOLZANO AND TRANSFER OF BOLZANO POWER FACILITIES TO LOCAL CONTROL: AND, B) AUSTRIAN NEED TO RATIFY BILATERAL AGREEMENT (1970) FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. CHIEF STUMBLING BLOCK ON ITALIAN SIDE REMAINS QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL SENATOR FOR BOLZANO WHICH WILL REQUIRE LENGTHY PROCEDURE INVOLVING PASSAGE OF CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE. PROBLEM IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY FACT THAT SENATOR ISSUE IS SOMETHING OF POLITICAL FOOTBALL SINCE ADDITIONAL SEAT FOR BOLZANO MEANS ONE LESS SENATOR FROM  
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PAGE 02 ROME 01035 231743Z

TRENTO. IN ADDITION, POLITICAL LEADERS WANT IRONCLAD GUARANTEE

THAT ADDITIONAL SEAT WILL BE RESERVED FOR ETHNIC ITALIAN SENATOR SINCE OTHER TWO SEATS ARE SET ASIDE FOR GERMAN-SPEAKING SENATORS. SOURCE SAID THAT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS, WHO EXERCISE MAJOR POLITICAL CLOUT IN THIS AREA, ARE NOW SEIZED WITH URGENCY OF PROBLEM AND HAVE AGREED TO SET NECESSARY MACHINERY INTO MOTION WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY.

3. AS FAR AS PROSPECTS FOR VISIT OF PRESIDENT LEONE TO AUSTRIA IN SEPTEMBER IS CONCERNED (REFTEL), SOURCE SEEMED TO THINK THAT EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO HAVE VISIT COINCIDE WITH COMPLETION OF CALENDAR. HOWEVER, IF IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT THIS PROSPECT IS STILL SOME DISTANCE IN FUTURE, ITALIAN PRESIDENT MAY VERY WELL AGREE TO SEPTEMBER TIMING IF BILATERAL RELATIONS REMAIN ON PRESENT EVEN KEEL. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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